

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all previous versions of the claims:

1-25. Cancelled

26. (Currently Amended) A method for lifting epithelium from an eye having a cornea with an epithelium and stroma, anterior surface comprising the steps of: placing contacting the anterior surface with an epithelial delaminator and moving the epithelium delaminator member to apply applying a mechanical force beneath the epithelium with a to the anterior surface, wherein the force is in an amount sufficient to lift the epithelium in a continuous layer to form an epithelial flap but not to cut the stroma.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 where the step of applying a mechanical force comprises a step of forming an epithelial flap.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 where the step of applying a mechanical force comprises a step of peeling the epithelial flap to expose the stroma.

29. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of performing a surgical step on the stroma.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 where the surgical step comprises reshaping the stroma.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 where the surgical step of reshaping the stroma comprises applying a laser beam to the stroma.

32. (New) The method claim of 31 further comprising the step of replacing the flap on the stroma.

33. (New) The method claim of 26 wherein the lifted epithelium contains substantially no corneal tissue.